REMARKS

In the advisory action, it was indicated that claim 1, for example, was being interpreted such that a first and second partition sections could be within the same partition. The claims have been amended to preclude this interpretation.

As pointed out previously and as uncontested by the Examiner, the reference teaches away from the claimed invention because, in Figure 8B of March, there is a partition 1 that includes the file system structure stored within partition 1. The file system structure is the first and last files of that partition. The specification explains that "when the file system creates a partition in the memory device, the file system reserves at least one memory location for file system structures of the partition (here, the first and last block of the partition)." See column 9, lines 48-52.

Thus, the reference uses the term "partition" and, contrary to the claim, the asserted metadata for the partition is stored in the partition itself. In other words, the metadata for one partition is not stored in another partition. Therefore, March clearly and distinctly teaches away from the claimed invention.

Therefore, reconsideration is requested.

With respect to claim 2, the advisory action suggests that it is unreasonable to expect that spaces would be left. Of course, spaces can and often are left in any storage operation. Therefore, it is not unreasonable to believe that this could happen. That is the test. Namely, the test for inherency is whether the operation must be as claimed. It need not be, as pointed out previously. Therefore, reconsideration is requested.

On a similar basis, all the other claims should also be in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,
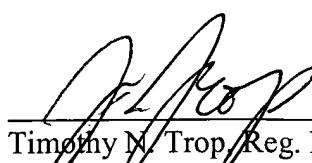
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